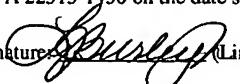


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. ER 038495487 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: February 5, 2004 Signature:  (Linda J. Burleigh)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

NIEMAN et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: Not Yet Assigned

For: HIGH DENSITY MICROWALL  
EXPANDED  
POLYTETRAFLUOROETHYLENE

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the documents were previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement and/or Office Action, directed to the related application Serial Number 09/718,923, filed November 22, 2000, and, accordingly, copies are not included herewith. This protocol conforms with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) and M.P.E.P. 609(A)(2). The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record in the application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- With the application; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1) has been provided.
- Within three months of the application filing date or before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1) has been provided.
- After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.
  - A fee is required. A check in the amount of \_\_ is enclosed.
  - A fee is required. Accordingly, a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17) is attached to this submission in duplicate.
  - A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above; accordingly; no fee is believed to be due.
- After mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.
  - A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above and a check in the amount of \_\_ is enclosed.
  - A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above and a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17 is attached to this submission in duplicate.)

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO-1449, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief (such as payment of a fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p)) is required, Applicants petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing [\(297912003410\)](#). However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: February 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Todd W. Wight  
Registration No. 45,218

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555 West Fifth Street  
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(949) 251-7189

<p>Form PTO-1449 <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i></p>		Docket Number 297912003410		Application Number Not Yet Assigned	
		Applicant		NIEMAN, ET AL.	
		Filing Date Not Yet Assigned		Group Art Unit Not Yet Assigned	
		Mailing Date February 5, 2004			

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Date	Document No.	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	1.	04/03/62	3,027,601	Barry			
	2.	04/16/63	3,085,290	Chu			
	3.	02/08/66	3,234,311	Pratt et al.			
	4.	04/27/76	3,953,566	R. Gore			
	5.	12/04/79	4,177,334	Okita			
	6.	02/05/80	4,187,390	Gore			
	7.	05/20/80	4,203,938	Burnett et al.			
	8.	06/24/80	4,209,480	Homsy			
	9.	02/03/81	4,248,924	Okita			
	10.	02/10/81	4,250,138	Okita			
	11.	07/07/81	4,277,429	Okita			
	12.	11/13/84	4,482,516	Bowman et al.			
	13.	07/01/86	4,598,011	Bowman			
	14.	05/10/88	4,743,480	M. Campbell			
	15.	10/31/89	4,877,661	House et al.			
	16.	09/11/90	4,955,899	Della Corna et al.			
	17.	10/09/90	4,961,891	Pitolaj			
	18.	01/15/91	4,985,296	Mortimer, Jr.			
	19.	06/25/91	5,026,513	House et al.			
	20.	05/03/94	5,308,664	House et al.			
	21.	06/14/94	5,321,109	Bosse et al.			
	22.	12/20/94	5,374,473	Knox et al.			
	23.	05/07/96	5,514,231	Thomas			
	24.	10/14/97	5,677,047	Thomas			
	25.	01/13/98	5,708,044	Branca			
	26.	10/27/98	5,827,327	McHaney et al.			

EXAMINER: (examiner)

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not the citation conforms with MPEP 609. Draw a line through the citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION  <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>					Docket Number 297912003410	Application Number Not Yet Assigned		
					Applicant	NIEMAN, ET AL.		
					Filing Date Not Yet Assigned	Group Art Unit Not Yet Assigned		
					Mailing Date February 5, 2004			

	27.	02/13/01	6,187,054 B1	Colone et al.				
	28.	06/11/02	6,402,779 B1	Colone et al.				
	29.	08/2002	6,436,135	Goldfarb				

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Date	Document No.	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation YES	Translation NO
	25.	04/26/89	0 313 263	EPO				
	26.	10/10/90	0 391 586	EPO				
	27.	08/06/98	WO 98/33453	PCT				
	28.	08/10/00	WO 00/45739	PCT				
	29.	02/01/01	WO 01/06953 A1	PCT				

## OTHER DOCUMENTS

(including author, title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Title
	26.	Declaration of Tim Nieman (w/ Exhibit 1)
	27.	Declaration of Scott Randall

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not the citation conforms with MPEP 609. Draw a line through the citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.